

# Entire UT System to join edX

*UT hopes to offer at least four edX courses by Fall '13*

By Ethan A. Solomon  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

The University of Texas system — nine universities, six health centers, 212,000 students and 19,000 faculty — announced yesterday it would join edX, the MIT-pioneered online learning platform and university consortium. The move sextuples the number of institutions involved with edX, from three to eighteen, and bolsters MIT's efforts to make online technology a staple of university education.

The UT system will also contribute \$5 million to edX, a non-profit corporation headed by former CSAIL director Anant Agarwal. The contribution is much less than those of the founding edX partners — MIT and Harvard each contributed \$30 million — but more than University of California, Berkeley, which contributed no funds but promised technical assistance in developing the platform.

In a press conference on Monday,

edX, Page 13



MELISSA RENÉE SCHUMACHER—THE TECH

**A construction crew demolishes the building at 219 Vassar St. on Monday morning.** The TCC Vassar childcare facility will be constructed in its place.

## Demolition begins at 219 Vassar

The demolition of the building at 219 Vassar St. began yesterday and is set to conclude by Nov. 15. The site will house the new TCC (Technology Children's Center) Vassar daycare, which is slated to open by next August.

Simmons Hall residents can expect noise during work hours from 8 a.m. to about 4 p.m. every weekday, said Dick Amster, director of campus planning, engineering, and construction.

While some weekend work is possible, Amster "doesn't believe it is anticipated."

Work will begin on the far side of the site, so hopefully "the building should shield Simmons from the noise as we get started," said Amster. Residents can also expect increased truck traffic on Vassar St. as a result of the demolition.

In an email to the official Simmons list, Ellen Essigmann

PhD '80, Simmons housemaster, mentioned that the north sidewalk of Vassar might be closed for the duration of the construction. While there may be times when it has to be closed, "the goal is to keep it open," assured Amster.

Demolition is scheduled to finish by Nov. 15, after which Facilities will begin to remove soil

Demolition, Page 14

# More than just people on ballot

*Questions on marijuana and assisted suicide*

By Anthony Yu  
STAFF REPORTER

Even though Massachusetts will mostly likely vote Democrat in the upcoming presidential election, there are three statewide ballot questions that could change current laws and affect MIT students.

If enacted, Question 1 would require car manufacturers to provide independent car repair shops and owners with the same vehicle diagnostic and repair information currently available to dealerships. The information must be included for new cars sold from 2015 onward. For older vehicles, manufacturers would be allowed to sell the repair and diagnostic information. Supporters of the law argue that car owners have the right to know how to fix their own vehicles, adding that the law would lower prices by increasing competition among dealerships and independent repair shops. However, the opposition argues that independent

Ballot questions, Page 9

# Fisher v. UT affirmative action case oral arguments heard

*How can the 'diversity' of a university be evaluated?*

By Leon Lin  
STAFF REPORTER

Last Wednesday, the U.S. Supreme Court heard the oral arguments from both sides of *Fisher v. University of Texas*, the affirmative action case for which MIT and 13 other universities, including the eight Ivy League schools, filed an amicus curiae brief defending the right of a university to consider the race of an applicant, among other factors, in its admissions process.

In *Grutter v. Bollinger* (2003), the Court upheld an admissions policy of the University of Michigan Law School, ruling that a diverse student body was a compelling interest that allowed the use of race in an admissions process so long as that use was "narrowly tailored" to obtaining the "critical mass" of minority groups on campus necessary for the kind of diversity that would enhance a school's educational environment.

## Diversity as an admissions goal

"Because we know that students learn quite a lot from each other, we want to bring to campus students who will add to the entire campus learning environment," Stuart Schmill, Dean of Admissions, wrote in an email to *The Tech*. "This also means bringing together students from different backgrounds."

Justice Samuel A. Alito noted in the oral argument that while the respondents argued for the benefit of diversity, they did not emphasize the goal of helping underprivileged students.

## Evaluating a university's diversity

"The educational benefits of diversity and the degree of diversity necessary to obtain those benefits defy easy calculation," MIT's joint brief to the Court admitted.

Bert Rein, the lawyer of petitioner Abigail Fisher, a white student denied admission to the University of Texas, argued that even under the framework of *Grutter*, the University of Texas had neither demonstrated the necessity of using race as a factor in admissions nor provided a well-defined goal to which its policies could be "narrowly tailored." Rein suggested that the University of Texas might have gone too far.

Justice Sonia M. Sotomayor asked Rein when he thought the university had reached a sufficient number of blacks: "Pre-*Grutter*, when the State was indisputably still segregating, it was four percent. Today, under the post-*Grutter* system, it's six percent. The two percent increase is enough for you, even though the state population is at 12 percent?"

"It's not our burden to establish the number," Rein said.

Several of the justices pressed the same points during the argument from Gregory G. Garre, who represented the University of Texas. "When will I know that you've reached a critical mass?" asked Chief Justice John G. Roberts.

The university did do a study in which they asked minority students about their classroom experiences. "In looking at the

Fisher, Page 12

## IN SHORT

The deadline to register to vote is Wednesday, Oct. 17. Students can register to vote in Massachusetts every day from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Lobby 10 using their MIT address.

**A memorial commemorating the late Alice H. Amsden, MIT political economy professor,** will take place this Friday and Saturday on the sixth floor of the new Media Lab. For more details and registration, visit <http://amsden.mit.edu>.

**It's Hunger Week! Join MIT Fighting World Hunger and local restaurants to fight local hunger.** Part of your payment at Cusi today, the Friendly Toast on Wednesday, and Veggie Galaxy on Thursday will be donated to the MIT Soup Kitchen, Rosie's Place, and Boston's Pine Street Inn. Visit their booth in Lobby 10 for more info!

**An all-clothing Choose to Reuse event is this Thursday.** Drop-off begins at 8 a.m. in Stata's big white lobby, and pick up is from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Send news information and tips to [news@tech.mit.edu](mailto:news@tech.mit.edu).



AKIMITSU HOGGE—THE TECH

**Sam Heilbroner performs with the Festival Jazz Ensemble in the Annual Family Concert,** a joint concert held with the MIT Wind Ensemble in celebration of Family Weekend, last Friday.

## IMAGINARY FISH

Studying marine communities through computer models.  
**CAMPUS LIFE, p. 15**

## TO VOTE OR NOT TO VOTE?

Pondering our civil duty. **OPINION, p. 4**

## STATE OF THE RACE

Yost and Edelman consider the recent debates. **OPINION, p. 5**



## VIDEO FEATURE: FAMILY WEEKEND

Families reflect upon their weekend at MIT.

## HOW'S THE CITY THESE DAYS?

Changing the time from orientation had drastic effects.  
**NEWS, p. 10**

## SECTIONS

World & Nation . . . 2  
Opinion . . . . . 4  
Campus Life . . . 15  
Fun Pages . . . . . 6  
Sports . . . . . 16





# Sept. 11 war crimes case resumes at Guantanamo Bay

By Charlie Savage  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

FORT MEADE, Md. — The Sept. 11 war-crimes case before a military commission at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, resumed relatively smoothly Monday as five men accused of being co-conspirators in the attacks were calm and cooperative in the first session of a weeklong pretrial hearing. Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the self-described mastermind of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, and the other four defendants each spoke directly — some through a translator — with the judge, Army Col. James L. Pohl. The atmosphere on the first day contrasted sharply with a chaotic arraignment hearing in May, when they refused to answer the judge’s

questions. On Monday, when the judge asked each whether he understood his right to decide not to attend sessions of the commission — and that choosing to stay away could damage his defense — each replied to him. “Yes, but I don’t think there is any justice in this court,” Mohammed said. The military installed small speakers that quietly broadcast a simultaneous Arabic translation near the seats of the five defendants. In May, the five men refused to wear their headphones, forcing translators to repeat every utterance in Arabic over courtroom loudspeakers, further slowing the proceedings. Monday’s session began a hearing of pretrial motions scheduled to

last through the week at the high-security courtroom erected at Guantanamo for the long-delayed trial. The proceedings were shown to reporters at the base and those watching via a closed-circuit feed at Fort Meade outside Washington. The remote feed had a 40-second delay, giving the military the option of censoring any statement it deemed to include classified information. The change from the chaotic May session was apparent early as two co-defendants, Mustafa Ahmad al-Hawsawi and Ramzi Binalshibh, spoke through translators directly with Pohl when he asked about a possible conflict of interest in al-Hawsawi’s defense team, which included Navy Cmdr. Suzanne Lachelier, who had represented Binalshibh several years ago.

# Student debt relief changes to aid well-off most, study says

By Andrew Martin  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

With nearly 1 in 6 student loan borrowers in default, the federal government is making changes to its income-based repayment plan to help borrowers with relatively high debt and low incomes keep up with their payments. But a report that will be released Tuesday by the New America Foundation, a nonprofit and nonpartisan policy institute, says the changes ultimately will provide only marginal help for low-income

borrowers who are at the greatest risk of default. Rather, the changes would provide big benefits to middle- and high-income borrowers, particularly for those seeking a graduate degree, the authors found. The report says that at least one financial planning company is telling law school students that the changes could allow them to write off \$100,000 in student debt. “If left unchanged, the program is set to provide huge financial windfalls to people who, far from being in need, are among the most

financially well-off graduates in today’s job market,” the report says. Asked about the report, Justin Hamilton, a spokesman for the Education Department, said in a statement that income-based repayment “isn’t necessarily right for everyone, but it can be an incredibly helpful resource for people struggling to manage their student loan debt.” Because payments are based on a percentage of income, borrowers with low incomes can conceivably pay nothing each month and still remain current on their loans.

# European Union intensifies sanctions on Iran

BRUSSELS — The European Union toughened sanctions against Iran over its disputed nuclear program Monday, banning trade in industries like finance, metals and natural gas, and making other business transactions far more cumbersome. The measures were the latest in a long series of sanctions from Europe, the United States and the U.N. Security Council, and were evidence of the worsening damage to Iran’s economy. In a joint statement, EU foreign ministers, meeting in Luxembourg, expressed “serious and deepening concerns over Iran’s nuclear program.” They added that in continuing to enrich uranium, despite Western concerns that it is aiming for a bomb, Iran was “acting in flagrant violation of its international obligations.” Ahead of the meeting, Catherine Ashton, the European Union’s foreign policy chief, said: “We want to see a negotiated agreement. But we will continue to keep up the pressure.” Ashton represents six major powers, including the United States, in nuclear talks with the Iranians. There have been five rounds of discussions since late 2010, the last of which ended in frustration in June. Ashton said the major powers would keep in contact with Saeed Jalili, Iran’s negotiator, to assess when to convene another meeting. The new European sanctions were necessary as a result of a “continued failure to satisfy the world that the program was for peaceful purposes,” said William Hague, the British foreign secretary. —James Kanter and Thomas Erdbrink, The New York Times

# Economists call delaying aid for Spain risky for Europe

MADRID — It has become Spain’s version of Godot: waiting for Rajoy. For various reasons, Mariano Rajoy, the country’s prime minister, has deferred seeking help from a financial assistance program that Europe has tailored to Spain’s needs. Many economists, analysts and business executives here are increasingly worried about the costs of further delay. They warn that waiting to seek aid, and the uncertainty the delay engenders, threaten to push the economy deeper into recession. And that, they say, could increase the ultimate cost to Spain and Europe if the aid eventually needs to be granted under crisis conditions. As long as Spain’s borrowing costs remain below six percent, as they have since the European Central Bank said it would buy the country’s bonds if asked, the Rajoy government might seem to have no reason to rush. But the downgrade of Spanish debt to near junk status last week by Standard & Poor’s underscored the fragility of the country’s finances. —Landon Thomas Jr., The New York Times

This space donated by The Tech

"...magnificently blends the essence of jazz, pop, Indian classical..." - Hindustan times  
"...thinks in ragas instead of chords..." - The Hindu  
"...Tucker's fusion gives the classical tunes space to breathe..." - Indian Express

Students for Bhopal at MIT,  
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Sunday, Nov 4, 6 pm  
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Proceeds support grassroots projects in India and the fight for justice in Bhopal.  
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# President Obama and the terrible, no good, very bad debate

## *How did President Obama lose the debate with Mitt Romney so badly?*

**By Keith Yost**  
*STAFF COLUMNIST*

Some of the damage done by Obama in the recent presidential debate has likely been mitigated by good numbers for current employment from the Department of Labor, but the polling still tells a dismal verdict for Obama's performance. A strong debate for a presidential challenger normally turns around polls by about three points; Romney's win turned around the polls by a whopping 4.6 points, turning a 3.1 deficit versus Obama into a 1.5 point lead in RealClearPolitics' aggregation of polls. On Intrade, Romney's odds have climbed 15 points, from 25 percent to 40 percent, while Nate Silver, who runs *The New York Times'* prediction model, has Romney improving by 18.2 points, more than doubling to a 32.1 percent chance of victory.

Of course, we didn't need to wait a week to see that Romney had won a decisive victory. Polls of debate watchers scored Romney well ahead of Obama, as did most pundits. However, a week of time puts to rest much of the Democratic spin on Obama's debacle. In the immediate aftermath, many of Obama's spokesmen put forth the claim that Romney only won because of massive lies about his own policies. But independent fact checkers have not backed up these claims, dinging the president for lying during the debate just as often that they dinged Romney. And on the big points of contention between Romney and the president, the fact checking has gone Romney's way.

For example, in the opening third of the debate, the president spent a great deal of time claiming that Romney's tax plan would either raise taxes on the middle class or add five trillion dollars to the national debt over 10 years. His logic rested on a September study that found that Romney's plan to cut tax rates for all income levels and recover the revenue by reducing deductions and tax expenditures would necessarily lower the total tax burden of those making more than \$200,000, because there would not be enough deductions to make up the difference in that income category. But the study came to its conclusions by assuming that Romney would not touch one third of the deductions available to cut; prior to the debate, and multiple times during the debate, Romney responded by saying he would cap annual deductions as low as \$17,000, in essence putting more than 90 percent of the deductions that the top one per-

cent uses on the table. It's as if, in preparing for the debate, Obama had failed to pay attention to any of the policy details being released by Romney and went in expecting an easy time picking at the undefined parts of Romney's agenda.

In fact, the spin itself, claiming that the Romney that Obama faced was radically different than the Romney that has been campaigning over the past year, belies a greater truth for why Obama lost the debate. Obama came to deliver a series of short prepared statements, as the format of most presidential “debates” has been. Romney came to actually debate. Had Obama been prepared for a real discussion, he would have had no problems responding to the supposedly “new” Romney. Yes, the debate would have gone more easily if Romney’s policies were mathemati-

**Had Obama been prepared for a real discussion, he would have had no problems responding to the supposedly 'new' Romney.**

cally impossible to implement. But it still remains that his plan is essentially to enact several deficit-cutting measures and use almost all of the proceeds to fund an across-the-board tax cut. If you don't like the deficit-cutting measures, then explain why. And even if you do, who says the gains from these moves have to go to tax cuts? Why not cut the deficit, or implement new spending? There is no position that cannot be attacked, if the debater is ready to discuss the meat of the issue. Obama was not.

During the night, Romney sparred with the moderator, Jim Lehrer, and perhaps for good reason — Lehrer gave the president significantly more time to speak than the challenger. But in reality, Romney should have been thanking Lehrer for moderating one of the most free-flowing debate formats ever witnessed in a modern election. Romney embraced the back-and-forth, spending most of his time responding directly to the president's claims. Obama, in contrast, spent little time addressing his opponent's points — when it was his turn to speak, he usually changed the subject so that he could deliver another prepared, 30-second segment. In the usual presidential debate format, having a string of 30-second statements plays just fine, with interruptions by the moderator offering the necessary transition from segment to segment. But the open mike night put on by Leh-

rer made the 30-second nuggets look terrible. Without a moderator to force the discussion between points, Obama had to provide his own transitions; every time he changed the subject, he was implicitly asserting that his change of subject was necessary to answer the question — if the audience didn't accept the assertion, then it looked as if changing the subject was instead forfeiting the point to his opponent in order to open a new topic. One or two such transitions are an acceptable risk. But if the back and forth of the entire night is Romney giving impromptu responses and the president constantly shifting to a new topic, even an audience giving significant benefit of the doubt to the president would interpret his failure to address Romney's rebuttals as a loss. For example, about halfway through the debate, Romney challenged Obama's claim

that American companies were subsidized to ship jobs overseas. He told the president flat out, "I have no idea what you are talking about." Obama smiled, and looked as if he was about to say something clever. And then he changed the subject. If the president had anything to back up his statement at all, anything that would at least have indicated "Romney should have some idea what I'm talking about," he would have come out ahead. Instead, the point went to Romney.

The real problem coming into a debate with a series of prepared statements is that eventually one gets boxed in. Eventually, one of your opponent's rebuttals to a statement you've made doubles as a preemptive rebuttal to a yet-unused statement, and the second statement can't be used with a straight face until something has been done to address the points brought up. Against the sort of full court press that Romney put on, Obama became visibly flustered and struggled to adjust on the fly. And when eventually he had nowhere to go and had to turn and fight, he found himself deeply out of his element.

The turn and fight moment came about two-thirds of the way through the debate, when the topic shifted to healthcare. Here was a moment for Obama to shine — healthcare is a glaring vulnerability for Mitt Romney and represents the president's best shot at claiming a major legislative achievement.

But the segment could not have gone worse for Obama. Romney deflected the conversation from a discussion of policy into a discussion of how policy is made, emphasizing that when he was governor, he worked hand in hand with his political opposition to craft policy, and that as president he would bring back bipartisanship in a way that Obama's healthcare reform proved the president patently incapable of. When Obama broke from his cue card reading to press home his advantage in healthcare, he flopped horribly, and found himself arguing in favor of partisanship while Romney preached the virtues of bipartisanship. Romney didn't just get away with the dodge, he came out ahead — the president might as well have been arguing against baseball and apple pie.

As the next presidential debate nears, Obama needs to radically change his debate preparation. There is a very real possibility that Jim Lehrer's excellent moderation was no fluke and that 2012's debates are going to mark a departure from the stifled formats of yesteryear. Second debates, historically, are not as impactful as the first debate, but Obama's campaign cannot withstand a loss even half as large — if he comes to another gunfight armed with a knife, he could very well lose the election.

What does this change in preparation mean, in real terms? It means reading up on the issues, rather than the opponent; Obama should be just as ready to debate Joe Biden as he is Mitt Romney. It means memorizing facts and structuring points around them; either Obama has an answer ready when Romney says he can't think of any tax subsidies for offshoring companies, or he shouldn't bring up the point to begin with. It means spending more time coming up with smooth transitions and deflections from one issue to another rather than smooth 30-second bites; in the new debate format, you can't run out the clock on a bad issue and wait for the moderator to intervene.

If Obama can avoid any more losses, then as the final weeks of this campaign play out, the fundamentals of the race will have a good chance of swinging things back in his favor. Good favorability ratings and economic improvement bode well for the president, and if Obama doesn't give voters a reason to dislike him, they might just remember the reasons they prefer him to Romney. He does not have to win the remaining debates, but he does have to come ready to debate.

# An overview of debate style

## How are the candidates measuring up?

## Debates, from Page 4

process, negotiated in secret between the two campaigns, it is nevertheless sometimes used as a campaign issue when one campaign indicates that there is resistance from the other to debate. Such an issue came up in 2008, when John McCain favored more town hall-style debates while then-Senator Obama wanted to engage in more traditional-style debates.

Historically, a failure to come to an agreement on debates has not been a major issue. Yet during the Presidential election of 1980, President Jimmy Carter refused to debate alongside an independent, Rep. John Anderson, who at the time was polling in the high teens nationwide. Carter's refusal led to a one-on-one debate between Governor Ronald Reagan and Anderson, which had the simultaneous effects of introducing Reagan as a softer candidate than most had expected and hurting Carter's standing amongst voters.

## Style

Nowadays there are mainly two different formats of presidential debates — a "traditional" format and a "town hall" format. A traditional style is where both candidates sit with a moderator (or stand behind podiums) and are asked questions by the moderator. In a town hall-style debate, undecided voters are chosen (for the current debates by Gallup) in the days before the debate and invited to attend with questions of their own choosing. Before the debate, audience questions are chosen by the moderator (selected by the Committee on Presidential Debates).

A famous exchange in a town hall-style debate took place in the 1992 Bush/Clinton

election when Herman Cain (a 2012 Republican primary candidate), then CEO of Godfather's Pizza, asked Bill Clinton a question relating to his proposed healthcare plan.

## Debate Prep

In anticipation of a presidential debate, candidates go through rigorous debate preparation. Usually, someone is chosen to debate alongside the candidate, standing in for the candidate's opponent. The goal of debate prep is to simulate the debate as best as possible, while also teaching the candidate to control his mannerisms and answers. The mock opponents can give sharp rebukes, intended to rile up the candidate. This is in order to teach the candidate to keep his temper in check and also to provide an opportunity to rehearse his one-liners, which are ever so important in the age of sound bite news.

Debate prep has been thrown into the spotlight in recent weeks — many praised Sen. Rob Portman for preparing Governor Romney for his first debate with President Obama two weeks ago. Recently, the president took additional time off from the campaign trail for debate prep in anticipation of his second debate tonight. His sparring partner is Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts.

## The Expectations Game and Leaks

Winning debates is nearly as much about beating expectations than coming out the true victor in substance or style. In the days (or sometimes weeks) before the debate, it is usual for campaigns to shower praise on their opponent's debate skills and downplay their own. This is known in the political world as "the expectations game." The goal is to lower expectations. The lower the

expectations, the harder it is to be wounded by a bad performance, and the easier it is to come out looking better than going in.

How are expectations lowered? Campaigns can either leak information to the press, indicating that campaign staffers are concerned about the possibility of their own candidate debating an opponent with more impressive rhetorical skills, or a senior staff official can directly compliment the other candidate. This year was no different — prior to the first presidential debate Obama tried to lower expectations, praising Romney — “Governor Romney — he’s a good debater” — while later being quoted as saying that “I’m just okay,” according to *CBS News*. Similarly, prior to the VP debate, nominee Paul Ryan said, “[Biden is] probably going to come at me like a cannonball...Joe Biden has been doing this for 40 years.” This is the classic way of lowering expectations — inflating your opponent’s experience and skill while downplaying your own rhetorical abilities.

## The Spin Room

The debate stage isn't the only place where campaigns slug it out on debate night. During every debate there is a room where campaigns "spin" the debate, trying to get across messages to the press that claim their candidate won the debate, and further promote the campaign's message.

Senior campaign staff (the communications director, political advisors, campaign managers, etc.) and other campaign surrogates (congressmen, senators, well-known former cabinet members, etc.) walk around accompanied by someone who holds a tall sign with their name. This allows the members of the press to easily identify individuals they want to interview.



[illegible]

A cartoon-style illustration of a T-Rex standing on its hind legs with its mouth wide open, showing sharp teeth. A single black line is positioned above its head, pointing towards the top of the page.

A black and white line drawing of a T-Rex head and upper body. The dinosaur is facing right, with its mouth wide open, showing sharp teeth. Its right arm is raised, with the hand open. The drawing is simple and cartoonish.

A black and white line drawing of a T-Rex standing on its hind legs, looking towards the right. A small wooden house is visible in the bottom right corner.

SO BAD.

Ahhhhhh! Run away!

You KNEW that would expose any bacteria on them to microwave radiation! And you KNEW that all radiation, regardless of source, causes gigantism and monsterism!

radiation! And you KNEW  
that all  
radiation,  
regardless  
of source,  
causes  
gigantism and  
monsterism!

Frigging  
microwaves!!

W  
t  
K

By Elise Stave

you did what??

## Solution, page 14

- 1 Landlocked African country
- 5 Airport counter name
- 10 Mediocre writer
- 14 Wedding rental
- 15 Summary
- 16 "This is terrible!"
- 17 Red Muppet
- 18 Madrid mother
- 19 Mascara applicator
- 20 Some cologne  
components
- 23 Manuscript marking
- 24 Perching places
- 28 Balk at
- 31 Radiance
- 33 Mad Hatter's offering
- 34 Plentiful
- 35 Coloratura's performance
- 36 Rail supports
- 37 Considered only in terms  
of money
- 40 Aggressive Olympian
- 41 Sty cry
- 42 Woodshop tool
- 43 Ham's frequent

44 Surreptitious signal  
45 Analyzed grammatically  
46 Cold treat  
48 Little bouquet  
49 "That sounds reasonable"  
55 Bend  
58 The same  
59 Distressful cry  
60 Ham's frequent  
surroundings  
61 Turbine part  
62 Villainous  
63 Widespread  
64 Positive replies  
65 Title for Julie Andrews

- 1 Staff symbol
- 2 Sledding spot
- 3 Clip contents
- 4 Thresholds
- 5 Band on a sleeve
- 6 Slightest
- 7 Choice for current
- 8 Stable mom

9 Driver's delight  
 10 "In what way?"  
 11 Light-dawning cry  
 12 Situation Room  
     broadcaster  
 13 Down for the count  
 21 Confused  
 22 Pull along  
 25 Tours of duty  
 26 Grow incisors  
 27 Answered back  
 28 Detection devices  
 29 Atlanta coll.  
 30 Ill humor  
 31 Vicksburg victor  
 32 Join together  
 35 In its current state  
 36 About to cry  
 38 Leaves in the kitchen  
 39 Elegance  
 44 Light touch  
 45 Conundrums  
 47 Heart of \_\_ (Alabama  
     nickname)  
 48 Type of 33 Across  
 50 Skin soother

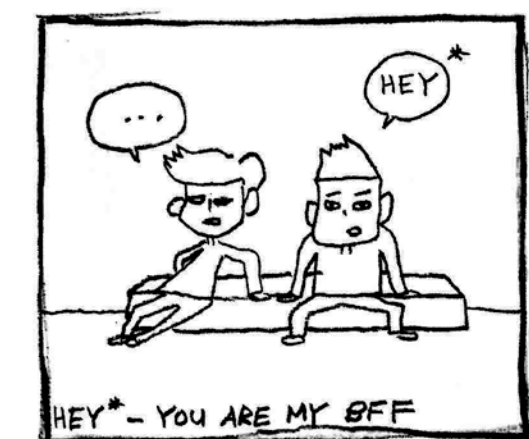
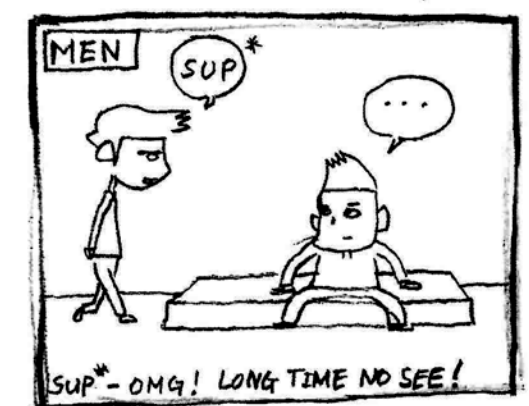
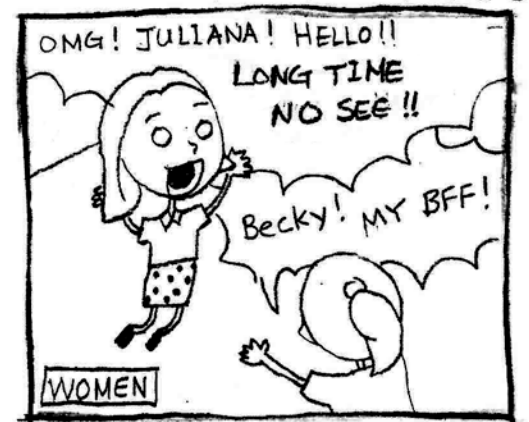
51 Baby foxes	55 President with a DC
52 TV science series	memorial
53 Take a dip	56 Kauai keepsake
54 Worldwide fashion mag	57 Pointy-eared being



Research Day One:  
Klein Bottle: 0  
Open Container Law: 1

# SKETCHY

by Dohyun Lee  
- WHEN WE MEET FRIENDS



# Techdoku

Solution, page 14

63x		20+		18x	2-	60x		
	48x					378x		6x
12x		360x				8x		
30x			168x					8
21+				23+		36x		9
64x		378x				11+		10x
	9			5x				
	3-	48x		432x				3-
1		9		16+			5	

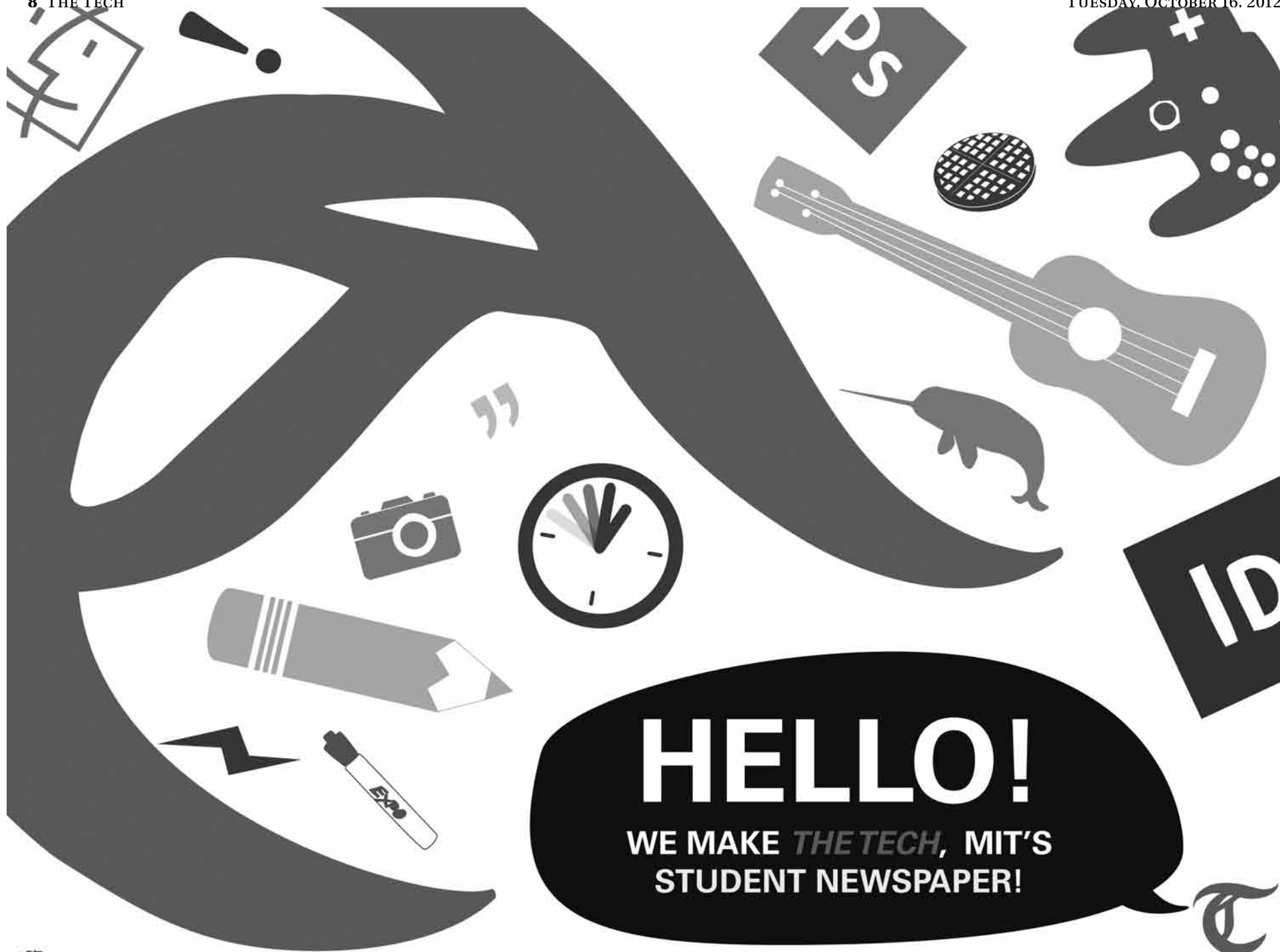
Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–9. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.

# Sudoku

Solution, page 14

7					4			
6		3	2					1
	1	2		7			4	
3		9		1			6	
	8						9	
	2			9		3		8
	9			3		4	5	
5					2	8		7
			5					9

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.



**NO EXPERIENCE  
NECESSARY!**





# MA ballot questions

## Not just asking about candidates

Ballot questions, from Page 1

repair shops already have access to similar information. They believe that this law would ultimately threaten consumer safety and cause prices of cars to rise.

In a departure from the typical ballot fare, Question 2, if enacted, could legally give citizens the right to assisted suicide. Terminally ill patients with less than six months to live would be able to request physicians to prescribe lethal medicine that would provide a “dignified death.” Physicians carry a significant responsibility; they must fully inform the patient of his or her actions and arrange for courier services once the patient passes away. In order to provide dignity, the death certificate would be issued with the underlying disease as the cause of death. Proponents argue that this enacting this law would reduce the suffering of terminally ill patients, who would otherwise die in discomfort. However, detractors fear that suicide will become a substitute for healthcare.

Also concerning the medically ill, Question 3 would further liberalize medical marijuana use after its decriminalization in 2008, which allowed people to carry one ounce of cannabis. If the law is enacted, criminal and civil penalties of possessing medical marijuana would be eliminated. Patients with serious conditions such as HIV, Hepatitis C, and Parkinson’s Disease would be allowed to have a 60-day supply of

marijuana for medical use. Marijuana would also be sold at state-regulated centers and in certain cases, patients would be allowed to grow marijuana in their homes. Supporters cite the relief medical marijuana provides for patients, while naysayers believe the vague language of “medical condition” will allow anyone to have access.

In addition, the City of Cambridge poses several non-binding questions on the ballot that influence the local congressmen. These questions are merely suggestions; Congressmen don’t have to adhere to the results when they vote. The first question asks if the state senator should vote that marijuana be taxed and regulated like alcohol. The second question asks if the state representative should vote that companies are NOT entitled to the rights of individuals. Finally, the third question asks if the state representative should vote in favor of a resolution calling upon the president to prevent cuts to various social programs, raise taxes for middle class Americans, and close tax loopholes for large corporations. This last question has no official bearing on what will happen; it is merely a resolution “urging” the president, and not a bill.

The text of these questions can be found in the sidebar, and more information can be found online at <http://www.mass.gov/ago/government-resources/initiatives-and-other-ballot-questions/ballot-questions.html>.

## Cambridge nonbinding questions

**2nd Middlesex Senate District (#5)**  
**Middlesex and Suffolk Senate District (#5)**  
Shall the state senator from this district be instructed to vote in favor of legislation that would allow the state to regulate and tax marijuana in the same manner as alcohol?

**24th Middlesex Representative District (#6)**  
**25th Middlesex Representative District (#5 in Wd. 4 Pct 1 & 3) (#6 in Wd. 4 Pct. 2, Wd. 6 Pcts. 2 & 3, Wds. 7 & 8, Wd. 10 Pcts. 1&2)**  
**26th Middlesex Representative District (#6)**  
**29th Middlesex Representative District (#6)**  
**8th Suffolk Representative District (#5)**  
Shall the state representative from this district be instructed to vote in favor of a resolution calling upon Congress to propose an amendment to the U.S. constitution affirming that (1) corporations are not entitled to the constitutional rights of human beings, and (2) both Congress and the states may place limits on political contributions

and political spending?

**24th Middlesex Representative District (#7)**  
**29th Middlesex Representative District (#7)**  
Shall the state representative from this district be instructed to vote in favor of a resolution calling upon Congress and the President to: (1) prevent cuts to Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and Veterans benefits, or to housing, food and unemployment assistance; (2) create and protect jobs by investing in manufacturing, schools, housing, renewable energy, transportation and other public services; (3) provide new revenues for these purposes and to reduce the long-term federal deficit by closing corporate tax loopholes, ending offshore tax havens, and raising taxes on incomes over \$250,000; and (4) redirect military spending to these domestic needs by reducing the military budget, ending the war in Afghanistan and bringing U.S. troops home safely now?



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*October 27-28, 2012*

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# Delayed CityDays sees lower turnout

*Organizers say moving the event  
from Orientation week negatively  
affected student participation*

By Tushar Kamath

While previously a community service event involving only freshmen and some upperclassmen leaders during Orientation week, this year's CityDays was publicized as a service opportunity for the entire undergraduate and graduate community and took place on Oct. 9, the Tuesday of the long Columbus Day weekend.

**189 students, only about half of whom were freshmen, represented 42 teams at CityDays.**

CityDays was formally removed from the Orientation program this year, a change recommended by the Review Committee on Orientation (RCO). The RCO, commissioned by Deans Chris Colombo and Daniel Hastings PhD '80 to investigate all parts of Orientation, concluded that the spirit of integrating freshmen into the MIT community should extend past the designated week of Orientation. Pursuant to this goal, the RCO recommended that CityDays take place outside of Orientation week so that the whole campus could get involved in the community service. The committee also recommended cutting CityDays because it was not an activity or program "critical or fundamental to an orientation based on national research."

While the intent of the RCO when rescheduling CityDays was to increase participation around MIT, the overall turnout was negatively affected. In previous years, around 600 freshmen signed up during Orientation with about 200 upperclassmen acting as group leaders for the program. This year a total of 189 students, only about half of whom were freshmen, represented 42 teams and worked at 13 different local community organizations. According to Pratyusha Kalluri '16, one of this year's organizers, they planned for about 300 people to sign up and about 160 to participate.

Jemale D. Lockett '14 noted that there were "not as many freshmen who knew what CityDays was. Because it was more group-based, more upperclassmen participated." Lockett — who has participated in CityDays since his freshman year and worked this year on an 8 a.m. shift — said that "the atmosphere felt sort of dead."

This year's program focused on the idea of competing groups, a change from previous years in which mostly freshmen participated in unaffiliated groups. Participants were divided into four leagues: FSILGs (fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups), residence halls, athletic teams, and other (groups that could be formed on any other basis other than those already specified). Groups within each league volunteered in the "ServeOff," a competition to gain the most participa-

# BEAVER MADNESS



FRIDAY 10 PM

ROCKWELL  
CAGE

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CityDays, from Page 10

tion from each group in which the winner would receive a \$400 grant from the MIT Public Service Center that could be used to fund future community service projects or to donate to a specific charity.

While volunteer numbers did drop, feedback polls from CityDays indicated positive results overall.

“Removing CityDays from Orientation definitely negatively affected the program,” said Dorian A. Burks ’14, the other organizer for this year’s CityDays. “Having CityDays later, and with everyone already having their own schedules, there was less of an opportunity for student leaders to step in.” In general, the planning for CityDays took place within a shorter time: “I was hired in July and Dorian was hired in August when, in the past, planning for the Orientation CityDays started at the beginning of the summer,” said Kalluri.

In its inaugural year as a “ServeOff,” this year’s winners of the \$400 grants were: Kappa Alpha Theta (FSILG), New House (residence halls), Women’s Swimming and Diving (athletic teams), and the Freshman Urban Program (in “other”). Katalina J. Sher ’14, the service and philanthropy director of Kappa

Alpha Theta, said, “We are going to invest the money into our service budget for the semester, which is used to register for future community service events. If we don’t use that money for the semester, we plan on donating to our philanthropy, the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Association, a group that supports advocates for neglected or abused children.”

While volunteer numbers did drop, feedback polls from CityDays indicated positive results overall. Burks added, “Even before CityDays this year, organizations have emailed me and asked for CityDays and how they loved working with students. This year, they said the students were very enthusiastic. Students have really enjoyed their organizations and would like to go back to the same organizations.”

The PSC will be hosting a Spring semester version of CityDays.

“Looking forward, we are planning on having an IAP community service day, which is open to the whole of MIT,” continued Burks. According to the current CityDays website, the Public Service Center will be hosting a Spring semester version of CityDays that may include lectures from faculty members or leaders of community service organizations and also incorporates both a service and educational aspect.

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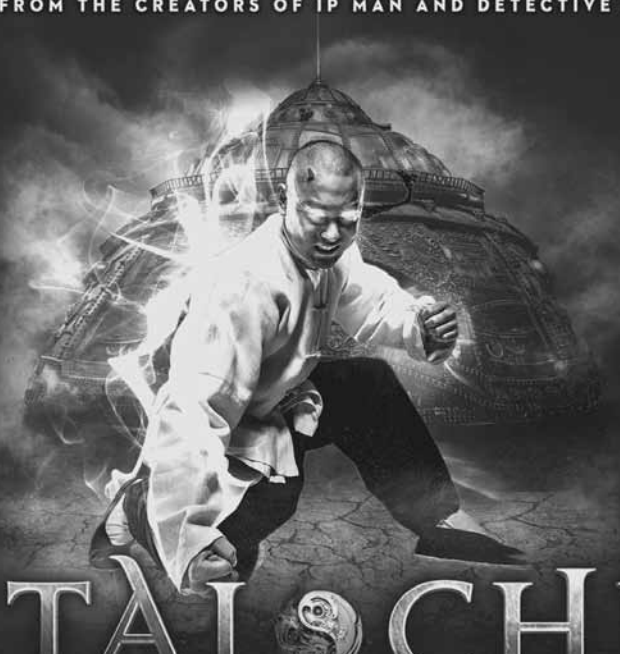
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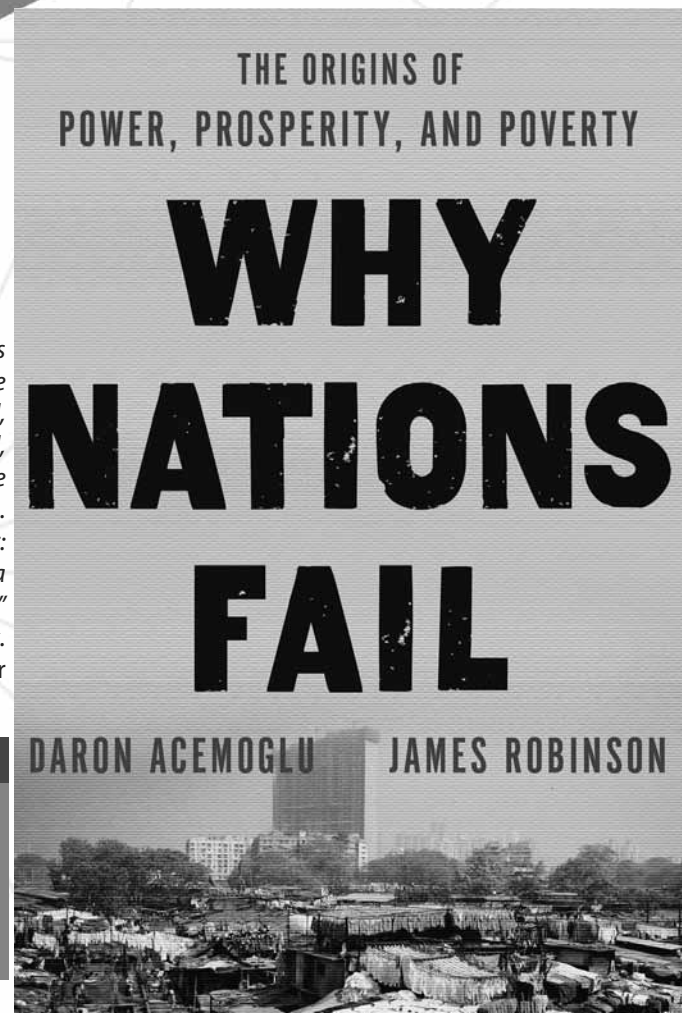
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Event details

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## Book Talk with Daron Acemoglu

Killian Professor of Economics at MIT

John Tirman from CIS joins as discussant



# Oct. 10, Fisher oral arguments heard

## Supreme Court Justices discuss educational mission & diversity

Fisher, from Page 1

classrooms, your honor, what the university found was shocking isolation,” Garre said to Alito.

But Garre refused to provide a specific number for the critical mass, saying that the Court had in fact previously struck down numerical quotas, and that there was no one number that would serve all contexts.

“At what point and when do we stop deferring to the university’s judgment that race is still necessary? That’s the bottom line of this case,” Sotomayor pushed.

“Your honor, part of this is a judgment that the educators are going to make, but you would look to the same criteria,” Garre said. “You would look to the criteria that we looked at, the enrollment data, the feedback from the students. We also took into account diversity in the classroom. We took into account the racial climate on campus.” The standard to apply, according to Garre, is whether a

school has produced “an environment where cross-racial understanding is promoted, an environment where the educational benefits of diversity are realized.”

MIT’s joint amici brief argued for continued autonomy of schools when it came to making these judgments. The brief predicted that excessively specific judicial requirements would severely disrupt the schools’ educational missions.

“Where is the end point?” asked Rein, who was given the last word. “We don’t have critical mass because we don’t know what it is and we refuse to say what it is. There is no judicial supervision, there is no strict scrutiny and there is no end point to what they are doing.”

Schmill feels that affirmative action at MIT has produced the desired effect. “I hear from students all the time how much they appreciate MIT’s diversity, and how much all our students feel their educational experience is enriched because of it.”

# Boston-area economics Nobel

## Recipients win for market design & matching theory

By Catherine Rampell  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Two Americans, Alvin E. Roth and Lloyd Shapley, were awarded the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Science on Monday for their work on market design and matching theory, which relate to how people and companies find and select one another in everything from marriage to school choice to jobs to organ donations.

Their work primarily applies to markets that do not have prices, or at least have strict constraints on prices. The laureates’ breakthroughs involve figuring out how to properly assign people and things to stable matches when prices are not available to help buyers and sellers pair up.

Roth, 60, has put these theories to practical use, in his work on a program that matches new doctors to hospitals and more recently for a project matching kidney donors. Public school systems in New York, Boston, Chicago and Denver, use an algorithm based on his work to help assign students to schools. A professor at Harvard, he recently accepted a new position at Stanford.

“Al has spent the last 30 years trying to make economics more like an engineering discipline,” said Parag Pathak, an economics professor at MIT who has worked on school matching systems with Roth. “The idea is to try to diagnose why resource allocation systems are not working, and how they can be engineered to produce something better.”

Shapley, 89, a mathematician long associated with game theory, is a professor emeritus at the University of California, Los Angeles. He made some of the earliest theoretical contributions to research on market design and matching, in the 1950s

and 1960s.

In a paper with David Gale in 1962, Shapley explained how individuals could be paired together in a stable match even when they disagreed about what qualities made the right match. The paper focused on designing an ideal, perfectly stable marriage market: having mates find one another in a fair way, so that no one who is already married would want (and be able) to break off and pair up with someone else who is already married.

In the 1980s, Roth applied this work to matches for medical residency programs and eventually school choice. He was interested in how to keep matches fair and how to keep more sophisticated players from manipulating the system to their advantage.

In older matching systems, a student would apply to his first-choice school, which was often popular. If the student did not get in, then the application would be sent on to the student’s second choice. But if that was also a popular choice, then that school’s program would have already filled up by the time his application was even considered, and the process would repeat itself with his third-choice school and so on.

Even if students were qualified to get into one of their top schools, they could be shut out because they did not rank their preferences strategically. This created an incentive to try to game the system by listing a less popular school as their first choice because that way they would at least have a chance of getting in somewhere.

Roth designed a system in which students had an incentive to tell the truth about where they wanted to go. A centralized office could then assign them to a school best suited for

them, based both on their own preferences and the preferences of the schools they were applying to.

The school systems he helped create use a “deferred acceptance algorithm,” which was developed by Shapley’s theoretical work.

The system works by tentatively accepting students to their top-choice school. It holds off on the final assignment until it has gone through all the other applications to make sure there aren’t other students who have a higher claim to a spot at that given school (because of higher test scores, a sibling at the school or whatever other criteria the school prioritizes), even if those students happened to rank the school lower on their list of preferences.

“The idea is to level the playing field,” Pathak said. “You want to make sure that not only do sophisticated players not have to spend the time learning the strategies and different heuristics that will get them ahead, but also that unsophisticated players are not hurt by the fact that they are not aware of all this information.”

Shapley was born in Cambridge, Mass. He received his bachelor’s degree from Harvard and his a Ph.D. in mathematics at Princeton, where he studied alongside John Nash, a fellow Nobel laureate. He is married and has two sons.

Roth received his bachelor’s from Columbia and his master’s and doctorate from Stanford, all in operations research. He is also married with two children.

The Nobel in economic science is not one of the original prizes created by Alfred Nobel. It has been awarded each year since 1969 by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. In addition to a medal and a diploma, the laureates collectively win a cash prize worth about \$1.2 million.

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# UTexas to join edX initiative

## 9 universities, 6 health centers added to partnership

edX, from Page 1

UT system Chancellor Francisco G. Cigarroa emphasized how he believed edX could effectively but inexpensively improve education at the Texas universities. There was a notably lesser focus on how edX courses could provide cheap or free education on a global scale — an idea that got the spotlight when MITx was announced late last year, and when Harvard and MIT announced the formation of edX.

“We are excited about this partnership with edX and honored to be in the company of such exceptional institutions as MIT, Harvard, and Berkeley. The mission of edX aligns perfectly with that of the UT system and keeps the learner as its central focus,” said Cigarroa. EdX “will allow us to diagnose and address student learning difficulties more easily” and “help them graduate on time,” he added.

**The UT system ultimately decided on edX because it is non-profit and run by academics.**

UT system officials said their universities would use a “blended model” of education, in which courses and degrees would be a combination of online and in-person components. Development of the “blended model” and pedagogical research would happen through UT’s Institute for Transformational Learning, founded this year to improve educational outcomes, raise graduation rates, lower costs, and improve college readiness in Texas.

The efforts to improve outcomes and lower costs come in part as a response to pressure from Texas Governor Rick Perry that public universities offer cheaper degrees.

“We view this partnership with edX as an incredible opportunity to give our students access to the highest quality courses in the world,” said UT Brownsville President Julia Garcia. “[We] also seek to improve large gateway classes that see high rates of student failures.”

The UT system announcement marked the first time edX was concretely and repeatedly described as a way for other American universities to give its students access to courses previously taken only by Harvard, MIT, or Berkeley students.

“This is a plan that is sustainable,” said Gene Powell, chairman of the UT Board of Regents. “We will keep 100 percent of our revenue, and we will better meet the learning needs of a wide range of students.”

The UT System hopes to offer at least four courses on edX by Fall 2013, though it is not yet clear whether UT students will immediately be able to get degree credit from them. Eventually, UT students would be able to pick edX courses from any other school in the system, or take courses offered by Harvard, MIT, or other universities that join the platform.

“EdX courses are *not* Internet versions of old-fashioned correspondence courses,” said Cigarroa. Any edX courses from UT schools would need to meet standards of rigor, but those standards were not specified.

And though UT system officials strongly indicated the partnership with edX was principally to improve its own educational programs, they

did touch on a global education component. David Callender, president of the UT Medical Branch at Galveston, said that the UT health institutions were eager to use edX to offer medical, nursing, and healthcare courses for worldwide consumption.

EdX is hardly the only game in town when it comes to MOOCs — Massive Open Online Courses. Coursera, a for-profit started by Stanford University professors earlier this year, has partnered with 33 universities to offer nearly 200 courses via a platform similar to edX. Udacity, co-founded by Stanford professor and Google engineer Sebastian Thrun, offers 14 courses, mostly in computer science.

**The edX spring courses will include subjects on history, law, and justice.**

Cigarroa said the UT system considered alternatives, but ultimately decided on edX because it is non-profit, run by academics, open-source, and “aligned with our vision” for a “blended model” of education. “We wanted to make sure production quality was high,” he added, citing confidence in MIT/Harvard’s leadership. (EdX is not yet open-source, but its backers have promised that at some point it will be.)

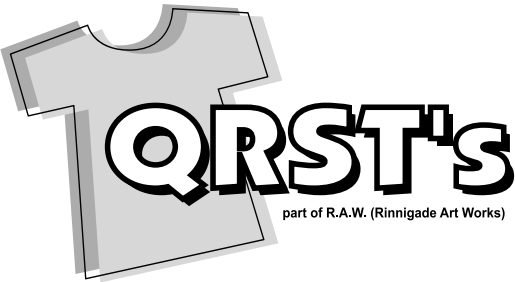
At Monday’s press conference, Agarwal said that edX will be announcing its spring lineup of courses in the coming weeks, which will include subjects on history, law, and justice. Those courses would complement the seven that edX already offers, most of them about computer science and electrical engineering.

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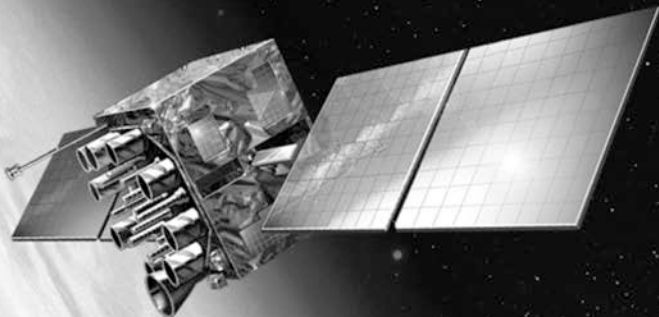
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**Demolition**, from Page 1

and start digging in the area, which should be done by the end of the calendar year. This work is to replace the site with more suitable soil for the daycare. Foundation and utilities work will go through March, and in April the construction of the new building will begin. The building is modular, and pieces of the structure will be manufactured elsewhere and mailed to MIT for a rapid assembly — ideally by the end of June.

“That’s the plan,” said Amster. “It’s always subject to change if there are issues that occur outside of our control.”

The center, which will open

126 daycare spots on campus, will more than double the number of child care slots on campus, which is currently at 142. The construction was made possible by a donation from David H. Koch ’62 and Charles W. Johnson ’55 and Jennifer Johnson.

“When we’re doing project we always try to be good neighbors,” Amster said. “People should know to get in touch with Richard Quade, our senior project manager. If people have issues let us know what they are and we will try to address them.”

Richard Quade can be reached at [rquade@plant.mit.edu](mailto:rquade@plant.mit.edu).

—Jessica J. Pourian

**Solution to Techdoku**  
from page 7

9	1	8	7	2	6	5	4	3
7	8	6	5	9	4	3	2	1
3	4	2	1	5	9	8	7	6
5	6	4	3	7	2	1	9	8
6	7	5	4	8	3	2	1	9
2	3	1	9	4	8	7	6	5
8	9	7	6	1	5	4	3	2
4	5	3	2	6	1	9	8	7
1	2	9	8	3	7	6	5	4

**Solution to Sudoku**  
from page 7

7	5	8	1	6	4	9	2	3
6	4	3	2	5	9	7	8	1
9	1	2	3	7	8	5	4	6
3	7	9	8	1	5	2	6	4
4	8	6	7	2	3	1	9	5
1	2	5	4	9	6	3	7	8
8	9	7	6	3	1	4	5	2
5	6	1	9	4	2	8	3	7
2	3	4	5	8	7	6	1	9

**Solution to Crossword**  
from page 6

CHAD	ALAMO	HACK
LIMO	RECAP	OHNO
ELMO	MADRE	WAND
FLORAL	SCENTS	
	STET	ROOSTS
RESIST	GLOW	TEA
AMPLE	ARIA	TIES
DOLLARS	SAND	CENTS
ARES	OINK	LATHE
RYE	PSST	PARSED
SUNDAE	POSY	
	ITMAKE	SENSE
FLEX	ALIKE	YOWL
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RIFE	YESSES	DAME

**SMBC**, from Page 7



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SPORTS SHORT

Men’s Tennis victorious in second season match

MIT Men’s Tennis defeated Nichols College, 6-3, on Saturday afternoon making them 2-0 for the season. Though Edwin M. Zhang ’14 and Matthew T. Skalak ’13 had a tough 8-9 loss, sophomore Eugene S. Oh and junior Curtis L. Wu picked up an 8-6 win and seniors Tymor C. Hamamsy and Brian K. Oldfield won their match with a score of 8-1. Heading into singles with a 2-1 lead,



the Engineers finished off the match strong. Zhang clinched a win against Nichols with a 6-3, 6-3 score. Though Oh ultimately lost his singles match, Oldfield had an impressive win of 6-3, 6-0. Followed by yet another win by Skalak of 6-4, 6-4 and Jeffrey R. Bu ’15 with a 6-1, 6-0 result, MIT secured the win against Nichols. MIT Men’s Tennis will host its next match against Eastern Nazarene College on Feb. 26.

—Felicia Hsu, Sports Staff

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Tuesday, October 16

Women’s Tennis vs. Wheaton College  
Field Hockey vs. Wheaton College

4:00 p.m., duPont Tennis Courts  
6:00 p.m., Jack Barry Field

Wednesday, October 17

Sailing vs. Midweek Tech Invite 2

4:00 p.m., Charles River

Field hockey dominates

Brings MIT’s conference record up to 5-1

By Mindy Brauer  
DAPER STAFF

A solid defensive performance coupled with a second-half goal was all MIT needed in its 1-0 victory over the Springfield College Pride in a NEWMAC field hockey game on Saturday morning. Kimberly A. Barker ’13 provided the lone marker that was set up by Elizabeth A. Dethy ’15. Sophomore goalie Jenna R. Klein stopped the only shot on goal she faced in her second career shut-out as the Engineers improved to 12-2 on the year and 5-1 in conference play.

MIT controlled the first half as it registered a 14-0 advantage in shots and a 10-0 margin in penalty corners. Freshman goalie Timarie Villa kept the Pride in the game as she racked up 10 saves in the opening frame.

The Engineers continued to attack and eventually broke through in the 42nd minute. Siobhan K. Rigby ’16 took a penalty corner that led to a shot by senior Molly E. McShane which was stopped by

Villa. Dethy corralled the rebound and sent a cross past Villa’s outstretched stick where Barker poked in the game-winner at the back post.

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Springfield responded with two penalty corners and a shot that was blocked, marking its first offensive charge of the day. The game became a back-and-forth affair as junior Kelly Gallo put the Pride’s only shot on net with 16:13 left to play. The hosts were awarded three penalty corners down the stretch but they could not record the equalizer. MIT nearly tacked on an insurance goal with 1:16 on the clock; however, Villa denied a bid by McShane.

MIT begins a three-game homestand on Tuesday, Oct. 16 against NEWMAC rival Wheaton College.

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